

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02076 200909Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----059439 201022Z /10

R 200801Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3326
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2076

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO, SG
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: SENGHOR DISAPPOINTED AT US DECISION
ON SALE OF ARMS TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 057412 AND STATE 060398

1. DURING OUR CONVERSATION MARCH 17, PRESIDENT SENGHOR EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT USG HAD DECIDED NOT TO SELL CERTAIN ARMS TO MOROCCO FOR USE IN WESTERN SAHARA. HE SAID HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW USG CAN FAIL TO SEE THAT ALGERIA WANTS TO DESTABILIZE THE REGION, UNDERMINE MODERATE GOVERNMENTR IN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, MALI AND NIGER, AND ACT AS A SURROGATE FOR THE SOVIET UNION IN ESTABLISHING MARXIST REGIMES. HE CONTRASTED THE DECISION ON ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO WITH THE US'S OUTSTANDING POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN THE HORN AND RHODESIA (SEPTELS).

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2. I RESPONDED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE POINT THAT HE AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN MAKING FOR THE PAST YEAR, BUT THAT THE MOOD IN THE UNITED STATES RIGHT NOW IS OPPOSED TO INVOLVEMENT IN REGIONAL DISPUTES WHICH ARE PERCEIVED AS LOCAL CONFLICTS BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR NORMAL MILITARY SALES

RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO.

3. SENGHOR SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE
WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM FROM A SAHELIAN PERSPECTIVE WITH
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION WHEN HE
VISITS THE UNITED STATES DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF JUNE.

COHEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: ARMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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